

## Message Text

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64

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-10

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RSR-01 /125 W

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R 210619Z JUL 73 ZFF-3

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7005

TO RUMTBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 3529

AMEMBASSY HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CINCPAC

UNCLAS RANGOON 1680

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR BM TH

SUBJ: NARCOTICS: INITIAL RANGOON PRESS COVERAGE ON CAPTURE OF  
LO HSING-HAN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUMMARY. RANGOON PRESS JULY 21 FRONTPAGED REPORTS ON CAPTURE  
OF LO HSING-HAN AND SMASKING OF SHAN INSURGENT HEADQUARTERS,  
AND PRINTED PHOTOSTATS OF "BANGKOK POST" STORY BREAKING NEWS  
TWO DAYS EARLIER. BURMESE--THAI COORDINATION LEADING TO LO'S  
CAPTURE WAS CITED. ONE EDITORIAL NOTED THAT LO'S CAPTURE SIGNED  
INEVITABLE END OF NOTORIOUS OPIUM RING AND DANGEROUS CRIMINAL  
TURNED INSURGENT WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR MUCH OF SUFFERING IN  
ASIA AND AMERICA FROM HARMFUL DRUGS. END SUMMARY

1. SATURDAY PRESS FRONTPAGED REPORTS OF CAPTURE OF L HSING-  
HAN AND SMASKING OF SHAN INSURGENT HEADQUARTERS INCLUDING FOLLOWING  
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ITEMS:

A. BURMESE-THAI COORDINATION WAS CITED: "DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE

SERVICES INTELLIGENCE COL TIN OO HAD PERSONALLY MET THE THAI ARMY AND AIR ATTACHE COL SANIT SATYASNGUAN ON 13 AND 16 JULY AND INFORMED HIM ABOUT THE OPERATION SAYING THAT LO HSING-HAN MIGHT FLEE ACROSS THE BORDER INTO THAILAND, THAT BAF PLANES TAKING PART IN THE OPERATION MIGHT PASS INTO THAI TERRITORY IN PURSUING LO HSING-HAN SINCE HIS HEADQUARTERS AT MONG MAU WAS SITUATED ONLY ABOUT THREE MILES AWAY FROM THE BORDER. HE ASSURED THE THAI OFFICIAL THAT EVERY PRECAUTION WOULD HOWEVER BE TAKEN TO PREVENT BULLETS AND ARTILLERY SHELLS FROM FALLING INTO THAI TERRITORY.

B. HQ OF VARIOUS SHAN INSURGE BS AT MONG MAU IN SOUTHER SHAN STATE NEAR THAI BORDER WAS CAPTURED BY BURMESE ARMED FORCES AT 10 AM ON JULY 17.

C. LO FLED MONG MAU, CROSSED THAI BORDER ABOUT TWO MILES SE OF REBEL HQ, AND WAS CAPTURED BY THAI BORDER PATROL POLICE AT 6 PM SAME DATE.

D. RECAP OF VICTORIES IN JUNE OF GUB FORCES AGAINST KOKANG YY, LOIMAW GROUP, SSA FORCES, AND IBMND ELEMENTS, ALL OF WHICH DISINTEGRATED AND WERE FORCED TO FLEE.

E. REPORT OF GUB ATTACK JULY 4 AGAINST KOKANG KKY WHICH RESULTED IN SURRENDER OF 145 INSURGENTS. OTHER OPERATIONS AGAINST THIS AND OTHER KKYS RESULTED IN CAPTURE OF TOTAL 381 REBELS.

\*. INTELLIGENCE UNITS HAVE ALSO CAPTURED 17 PERSONS, INCLUDING HIGH RANKING OFFICERS OF IBMND WITH THREE TRANSMITTERS AND IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS.

G. LARGE PHOTOSTATS OF BANGKOK POST JULY ARTICLE REPORTING CAPTURE OF LO.

H. AERIAL PHOTOS OF REBEL HQ AT MONG MAU BEFORE SEIZURE.

2. "WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY" EDITORIAL JULY 21 ATTRIBUTES CAPTURE OF LO, "MUCH BETTER KNOWN AS THE OPIUM KING OF THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE," TO RELENTLESS ATTACKS MADE BY BURMESE TROOPS UPON  
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HIM AND HIS FOLLOWERS.

EDITORIAL CONCLUDES, THE FALL OF MONG MAU AND THE CAPTURE OF LO HSING-HAN SIGNAL THE INEVITABLE END OF A NOTORIOUS OPIUM RING AND A DANGEROUS CRIMINAL TURNED INSURGENT WHO HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS "RESPONSIBLE FOR MUCH OF THE SUFFERING IN ASIA AND AMERICA RESULTING FROM HARMFUL DRUGS".

WITH THE SUPREMO HIMSELF IN CAPTIVITY, THE FATE OF THE COALITION OF THE FORMER KAR-KWE-YEN THE LOI MAW INSURGENTS AND THE SHAN

STATE ARMY (SSA) ELEMENTS HE ONCE LED HAS BEEN SEALED. IN FACT, THEIR DISINTEGRATION SET IN LONG BEFORE LO HSING-HAN'S HEADLONG FLIGHT AND ARREST, AS THE TROOPS PUT UNRELENTING PRESSURE ON THEM. WHEN MONG MAU FELL LO HSING-HAN LEFT BEHIND HIM ANY WILD DREAM THAT HE MIGHT HAVE HAD FOR RALLYING HIS ASSORTED BAND OF FOLLOWERS AGAIN. HIS SUBSEQUENT ARREST PUT AN END TO EVERYTHING.

MEANWHILE, THE DEFENCE SERVICES INTELLIGENCE DRAGNET, CLOSING AROUND AGENTS OF THE INTELLIGENCE BUREAU OF THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENCE, TAIWAN, WHICH HAD BEEN MANIPULATING LO HSING-HAN AND ALLIED GROUPS, HAULED IN SEVENTEEN AGENTS INCLUDING SOME IMPORTANT OFFICIALS. ALL IN ALL, THE UNHOLY ALLIANCE BETWEEN THE OPIUM TRAFFICKERS-CUM-INSURGENTS AND THE TAIWAN INTELLIGENCE HAS BEGUN TO FALL IRRETRIEVABLY INTOPIECES.  
MARTIN

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## Message Attributes

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